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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BUDINGER ET AL.

Atty. Ref.: 839-1497; Confirmation No. 2833

Appl. No. 10/731,115

TC/A.U. 1746

Filed: December 10, 2003

Examiner: B. S. Carrillo

For: METHODS OF HYDROGEN CLEANING OF METALLIC SURFACES

* * * * *

January 9, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Official Action of December 13, 2006, applicants hereby elect to pursue the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-14 and 19-28. The election is made with traverse. In this regard, the essential manipulative steps recited, for example, in paragraphs (b) and (c) in independent claims 1 and 15 are sufficiently similar that the area of search would be substantially the same. In other words, it appears that all of the claims are best examinable with each other and, moreover, the Examiner has not provided any detailed reasons why the claims are considered independent and distinct.

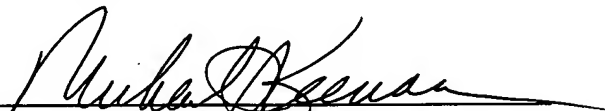
It is therefore respectfully requested that all of the claims be examined in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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